
From: Blois Olson, Fluence Media
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 6:55 AM CDT
To: Sikora, Juliann
Subject: morning take 6.29.18 - Early Voting Starts

morning take

a daily Minnesota tip sheet

content by:



TIPS: How do we get the best news and most buzzed about stories, send us your tips at BloisOlson@gmail.com

SPEAKING: If your trade association or group has an event in 2018 where an election overview, volatility of media and politics would be of interest, email **Blois Olson** bloisolson@gmail.com to discuss any speaking opportunity.

SUBSCRIBE: We all know that 2018 is going to be a wild political ride. Let's grow the morning take list by sharing it widely. Forward today's edition to anyone you think would enjoy it for work or to fill a junkie's need. **SUBSCRIBE:** <http://bit.ly/amtake2017>

SAFETY: Positive Train Control is just one layer of BNSF technology and KSTP-TV got a first-hand look at how it works. From Matt Belanger via *KSTP-TV*, **VERBATIM:** "Dozens of freight trains, sometimes hauling loads weighing as much as 20,000 tons, pass through the Twin Cities every day. And railroad companies are facing an end-of-year deadline to put new safety technology in place called positive train control . . . It uses a complex network of GPS technology, track sensors and radio towers to constantly monitor the train's speed, the grade it is traveling and the track ahead. If the engineer doesn't take action, the computer can take control of the train to ensure it slows down to an acceptable speed to round a bend or even stop to avoid a crash." **WATCH:** <http://bit.ly/2Jds81r> (**SPONSORED:** [BNSF Railway](#))

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POLL: via *OutState.US*, a Stewart Mills backed website. **BACKGROUND:** Outstate.us partnered with national polling firm BK Strategies to survey the 2018 General Election. This poll was conducted on June 24th and 25th, 2018 with 1,574 likely Minnesota

voters participating. The survey has a margin of error of +/-2.47% at the 95% confidence level and was conducted via interactive voice response. **CONGRESS:** If the November 2018 General Election for United States Senate were held today, would you vote for the Republican candidate, or the Democratic Farmer-Labor candidate? Republican: 42%; Democratic Farmer-Labor: 49%; Undecided: 9% **GOVERNOR:** If the November 2018 General Election for Governor were held today, would you vote for the Republican candidate, or the Democratic Farmer-Labor candidate? Republican: 42% Democratic Farmer-Labor: 48% Undecided: 10% **GOPPRIMARY: Pawlenty 54, Johnson 20 GOV: Walz 48, Pawlenty 41 GOV: Swanson 46, Pawlenty 41 SEN1: Klobuchar 57, Newberger 37 SEN2: Smith 48, Housley 39 READ:** <http://bit.ly/2yWjlaM>

VOTING: via **Bill Salisbury** of the *Pioneer Press*, **VERBATIM:** "Minnesota's primary election is more than a month away, but voters can start casting ballots on Friday...Why would you want to vote now?..Maybe because you plan to be away on a family vacation or at the lake or on a bike trip on primary election day, Aug. 14, but you want to cast a ballot for your favorite candidates...This is the third Minnesota election year in which anyone, regardless of whether they will be away from their voting precinct, is allowed to cast an absentee ballot without providing an excuse for why they couldn't make it to the polls...When legislators changed the voting requirements in 2013, they called the new law "no-excuses early voting." **SIMON:** "I'm calling it 'Vote from Home,'" Minnesota Secretary of State **Steve Simon** said Wednesday. As House Election Committee chairman in 2013, Simon was the chief author of the early-voting bill. His main reason: Make it easier to vote. **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2Kv1gY>

LEARN: School credit union branches provide students with opportunities to learn money management skills and develop career skills. **LEARN:** <http://bit.ly/2JCY2kC> (**SPONSORED:** [MN Credit Unions](#))

VOTES: via **Greta Kaul** of *MinnPost*, **VERBATIM:** "The candidates Minnesotans send to the governor's mansion, elect to the U.S. Senate and pick for other statewide offices will depend on something obvious come November: who gets the most votes. What's less obvious — and what campaigns for the people vying for those positions will be working out over the next several months — is how exactly to go about getting those votes, which are unevenly distributed across the state...At a time when politicians are increasingly talking about an urban-rural divide, that fact also leads to something of an impolitic question: Can you win a statewide election in Minnesota by focusing only on voters in the Twin Cities metro area?...The 2010 governor's race between DFLer **Mark Dayton**, Republican **Tom Emmer** and Independence Party candidate **Tom Horner** offers a good example of the way that dynamic plays out, said Ostermeier: Dayton beat Emmer by 4.7 percentage points in the Twin Cities metro, and Emmer beat Dayton by 4.7 percentage points in Greater Minnesota. Dayton, of course, won the election (though by less than 10,000 votes). **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2Kz5w8l>

MORE: via **Molly Hensley-Clancy** from *BuzzFeed*, **VERBATIM:** "While Republicans shower rural Minnesota with energy and money, much of Democrats' focus is on the suburbs of Minneapolis and St. Paul — "the Cities," as they're known up here. In the Cities, Democrats have the chance to flip two seats held by Republicans in districts that **Hillary Clinton** either won by 9 points or lost only narrowly...It's the same thing the party is chasing across the country: the chance to win in wealthy white suburbs in places like New Jersey and Orange County, where Democrats are energized and some historically Republican voters, especially white women, are turned off by Trump...Meanwhile, Itasca County is teetering on the edge of losing its long Democratic heritage. It went to Trump in the 2016 election by 15 points — the first time since 1928 that the county had voted for a Republican president... Meanwhile, the tension between urban and rural Democrats in Minnesota was ratcheted up earlier this month, when the state Democratic Party voted to endorse a liberal woman from St. Paul, Erin Murphy, over Tim Walz, a Congressman from rural southern Minnesota who won in 2016 in a district Trump carried. Murphy promptly picked another urban, liberal woman as her lieutenant governor. **MARTIN:** "She didn't think about us when she picked her running mate," **Cyndy Martin** said of Murphy...**Loren Solberg**, an Iron Range Democrat who served in the Minnesota House from the 1980s until 2010, said that in his early years there was a "strong coalition between rural and urban legislators. We were focused on labor and jobs."...But things have changed, Solberg said:

"The parties have become more and more narrow in their attraction of people." **READ:** <https://bzfd.it/2tKO8Xq>

TPAW: via **Brian Bakst** at *MPR*, **VERBATIM:** "March 30 was a banner day for **Tim Pawlenty**...The Republican candidate for Minnesota governor hauled in \$115,000 in contributions that day, helping solidify him as the clear money leader in the race...It was also the day that nearly 5,000 shares of stock in a frac sand company where he's on the board of directors had vested, meaning he could turn the stock into cash at his discretion. A securities filing valued the restricted Smart Sand shares at \$80,000... On recently filed state disclosure forms, Pawlenty has reported his connections to the two boards he is continuing to serve on: Texas-based Smart Sand and Eagan-based ConvergeOne, a technology consulting company...There's nothing illegal or even unusual about a former politician ending up on a corporate board... Federal records show Pawlenty earns \$60,000 in fees annually from both Smart Sand and ConvergeOne, plus stock awards. He's accrued hundreds of thousands of shares in the two companies that all told are worth more than \$2.5 million based on current stock prices." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2lB1f37>

FARMBILL: via the *Washington Post*, **VERBATIM:** "The Senate passed its version of the \$428 billion farm bill Thursday, setting up a bitter fight against the House over food stamps, farm subsidies and conservation funding...The Senate measure passed in an 86-to-11 vote, overwhelming support that reflected a bipartisan desire to rush relief to farmers confronting low prices for their products and an array of other troubles. But the bill faces challenges when lawmakers meet later this summer to reconcile gaping differences between the House and Senate bills...The House version of the legislation, passed narrowly last week with no Democratic support, imposes strict new work requirements on able-bodied adults seeking food stamps. The Senate version, which needed Democratic votes to pass, does not include major changes to food stamps...Key senators have said they would not support a final bill containing work requirements, even though that policy is backed by the White House, because it would jeopardize the bipartisan support the legislation needs to pass. The Senate farm bill also preserves a major conservation program gutted in the House bill, as well as a separate provision, unpopular in the House, that would limit farm-subsidy payments." **READ:** <https://wapo.st/2lILKwO>

FULL COVERAGE of the Farm Bill today in Ag Take - **SUBSCRIBE:** <http://bit.ly/AgTake>

TRADE: via **Tad Vezner** of the *Pioneer Press*, **VERBATIM:** "The state of Minnesota has released a report on the potential impact of President **Donald Trump's steel** and aluminum tariffs — or rather, foreign reaction to them — on Minnesota's exports, identifying hundreds of millions of dollars in state-produced products that may suffer from tougher markets across the globe...The data, released Thursday by the state Department of Employment and Economic Development's economic analysis unit, tallied \$641 million in Minnesota-made exports — from pork to soybeans to steel — that would be impacted by countertariffs from Canada, China, Mexico and the European Union. Those tariffs will go into full effect at the beginning of next month...The report lists the 10 biggest industries each targeted by countertariffs from Canada, China, Mexico and the European Union — 40 product categories in all...The countertariffs are taxes, ranging from 10 to 25 percent, on specific industries, some of which are already in effect and others that are slated to go into effect in early July. China, for example, won't apply an additional round of tariffs until July 6, and Canada won't apply its tariffs until July 1." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2KvhMqO>

LINE3: via *AP*, **VERBATIM:** "Minnesota regulators on Thursday approved Enbridge Energy's proposal to replace its aging Line 3 oil pipeline, angering opponents who say the project threatens pristine areas and have vowed Standing Rock-style protests if needed to block it...All five members of the Public Utilities Commission backed the project, though some cited heavy trepidation, and a narrow majority later approved the company's preferred route despite opposition from American Indian tribes and climate change activists... Several commissioners cited the deteriorating condition of the existing line, which was built in the 1960s, as a major factor in their decision." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2MzGx65>

YOU GOTTA LISTEN: Enbridge strives to be a good neighbor in the communities where we operate and that includes actively

engaging with and listening to landowners. **WATCH:** <http://bit.ly/2DMDdAC> (SPONSORED: [Enbridge](#))

MNLARS: via **David Orrick** at the *Pioneer Press*, **VERBATIM:** "Minnesota's beleaguered computer system for vehicle titles and tabs won't be fixed before the agencies responsible for it run out of money, officials said Wednesday...Not only that, work to fix glitches in the system, known as MNLARS, will halt in February — probably sooner — and much of the team that's been working on it will be dismantled, officials told lawmakers...That sober truth is the result of politics. Tens of millions of dollars in funding that was needed to fix the system — and add new features that were never built into it but are needed — fell victim to disagreement between Gov. **Mark Dayton**, a Democrat, and the Republican-controlled state Legislature at the Capitol this spring." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2tSs5OW>

TODAY: via news advisory from CTUL, **VERBATIM:** "Minnesotans will take direct action and protest at a multi-national company profiting off the child separation policies at the center of the #KeepFamiliesTogether crisis...The location of the action will be shared at Noon on Friday. **Visuals:** Signs, chanting, photos of children held in cages"

TODAY: Governor **Mark Dayton** will meet with commissioners and staff throughout the day.

NEXTWEEK: Next week, MN-08 Congressional Candidate **Jason Metsa's** campaign will release its Northern New Deal plan outlining the top issues Metsa will focus on in Congress. Metsa's campaign will release the plan next week, beginning on July 9th.

HOUSING:: via Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, **VERBATIM:** "The Minnesota Multi-Housing Association is introducing a framework to preserve and develop affordable rental housing throughout Minnesota...the organization released strategies that will be key to reaching those optimistic, yet achievable goals. These strategies are meant as a framework for a discussion to improve affordable housing in Minnesota. The framework has three key goals:

1. Protecting Residents
2. Preserving Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH)
3. Producing More Multifamily Housing.

READ MORE: <http://bit.ly/2CSBaKh> (SPONSORED: [Minnesota Housing News](#))

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BBY: From Rich Duprey via *The Motley Fool*, **VERBATIM:** "**Best Buy** launched its technical support subscription service a month

ago, and it's already paying dividends for the electronics superstore chain. Even though such services only represent a small proportion of its total revenues, because they have the potential to encourage consumers to make additional purchases, the ripple effect of the program might be felt across sales, profits, and margins . . . Data from YouGov BrandIndex suggests Total Tech Support powered by Geek Squad is giving Best Buy a much-needed boost in brand perception. YouGov surveys ask consumers to rank their impression of a brand on a scale ranging from 100, which is 'very positive,' to -100, which is 'very negative.' Between May 21 (the day before Total Tech launched) and June 11, Best Buy's consumer satisfaction score surged over 23%, hitting a better than two-year high of 47." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2tC52Zl>

MEDTRONIC: From Fink Densford via *Mass Device*, **VERBATIM:** Medtronic won a \$471.6 million contract with the US Department of Defense to provide it with cardiovascular products, according to a DoD release posted yesterday . . . Through the contract, the Fridley, Minn.-based company will supply cardiovascular products to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and federal civilian agencies." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2IB2BL1>

HBFULLER: Via *Associated Press*, **VERBATIM:** "H. B. Fuller Co. (FUL) on Wednesday reported fiscal second-quarter net income of \$44.5 million. The St Paul, Minnesota-based company said it had net income of 86 cents per share. Earnings, adjusted for non-recurring costs, came to 89 cents per share. The results surpassed Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of five analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 86 cents per share." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2tAzKlu>

GENMILLS: From Tara Lachapelle via *Bloomberg*, **VERBATIM:** "Both **General Mills** and Pinnacle Foods are responding to a [rapidly changing industry](#), as consumers seek out fresher, less processed items — for themselves and their pets — as well as quick meals that fit their busy lifestyles. Old reliables like Big G cereals and Duncan Hines baking products are getting left on the shelves in grocery stores' less-trafficked center aisles, while upstart brands make their way into shopping carts. It's not any help that input costs such as shipping have also risen at a time when the companies are limited in their ability to raise prices. That's because supermarket chains are putting pressure on their suppliers as they worry about staying competitive following Amazon.com Inc.'s purchase of Whole Foods . . . General Mills specifically has been dragged down lately by its \$8 billion purchase in February of Blue Buffalo Pet Products, the company's largest transaction in 18 years. As I wrote at the time, General Mills is paying top dollar, but of all the deals it could have done, this one wasn't a bad idea. Pet food is growing faster than most other food categories, according to data from Euromonitor International." **READ:** <https://bloom.bg/2tzJvAa>

CARGILL: From Susan Reidy via *World Grain*, **VERBATIM:** "Cargill has reached an agreement with CSSC Leasing to time-charter four new baby-cape vessels. Baby-cape vessels are typically between 100,000 and 120,000 deadweight tonnes and give customers an opportunity to load the optimum amount of cargo to fulfill their supply chains, Cargill said. The ships primarily will handle grain and coal. The agreement includes an option for two more vessels. 'Cargill continues to modernize its fleet to provide long-term competitiveness and environmental performance. These vessels will be among the most efficient in the market. Every aspect of the design, build and management ensures they will perform at the highest level,' said **Jan Dieleman**, president of Cargill's ocean transportation business." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2N7nRf6>

INSIGHT: Via *Fluence Media*, a detailed look at U.S. Department of Agriculture trade projections for 2017 as well as survey data showing attitudes on trade and the rural economy. **INFOGRAPHIC:** <http://bit.ly/2tXcZ95>

HONEYWELL: From Chen Chuanren via *Aviation International News*, **VERBATIM:** "Honeywell's Boeing 757 'Connected Aircraft' testbed is in Asia completing a three-week mission to collect crucial weather data. Unlike the 'Power of Connected' World Tour last year, during which the aircraft visited more than a dozen countries in North America, Europe, and Asia and demonstrated the capabilities of the Connected Aircraft, this year's deployment to Asia is primarily to collect vital scientific weather patterns and data

over Southeast Asia. Joseph Duval, Honeywell's chief test pilot, said Asia, especially at the intertropical convergence zone, has varying weather patterns compared to North America. It is with this in mind that the team set out during the onset of the Southwest monsoon season that is characterized by short but heavy thunderstorms." **READ/PHOTO:** <http://bit.ly/2Na3G02>

LAYOFFS: From Amanda Ostuni via *Twin Cities Business*, **VERBATIM:** "Minnesota's unemployment rate has been steadily better than the national average, and in May it reached 3.1 percent, its lowest mark since July 2000. However, data on mass layoffs in the state this year paints a decidedly less positive picture. In the first five months of 2018 alone, more than 6,000 local workers have been affected by mass layoffs, according to records from the state's Department of Employment and Economic Development—the most of any year since record-keeping on mass layoffs began in 2014 . . . Roughly as many employees have been a part of mass layoffs in the first five months of 2018 as there were in all of 2014 . . . As the Federal Reserve Bank suggested, one possible reason for the recent spike in mass layoffs is the amount of closures of large national retailers, including the bankruptcy liquidation of Bon-Ton – which owned 14 Herberger's stores and two Younker's stores in Minnesota, in addition to stores elsewhere; Toys "R" Us; and Sears Holdings Corp., which is shuttering one Kmart store and two Sears stores around the state." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2tE8KBu>

INSIGHT: Via *Center for Rural Policy and Development*, **VERBATIM:** "For most parts of the state, the coming workforce squeeze is already here. A smaller pool of workers means businesses—and communities—will be competing for their attention. Communities around Minnesota are starting to work on how to make their towns the places people want to move to. But part of making a community a great place to live involves not just cosmetic improvements but also deep infrastructure upgrades as well: updated broadband, water and sewer, expanded public transit, and more accessible health care . . . So how does a rural community compete against big population centers? Cities around the state are working on just this question." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2fbkZw7> (**SPONSORED:** by [Center for Rural Policy and Development](http://bit.ly/2fbkZw7))

SCHWAN'S: From Schwan's via *Business Wire*, **VERBATIM:** "**Schwan's Company**, a leading food manufacturer in the United States that recently announced a \$34 million investment into its pizza production facility in Florence, Kentucky, is now hiring approximately 50 positions to meet an increase in demand." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2tC11UG>

GENMILLS2: From Frank Keyly via *WGEM-TV*, **VERBATIM:** "The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) in Quincy is hosting an informational session for jobs at the Hannibal **General Mills** plant Thursday . . . Walley said General Mills is likely seeking to fill out its Progresso soup expansion at the Hannibal plant, which means jobs for workers all around the Tri-States." **WATCH:** <http://bit.ly/2tBdjg5>

CHS: From Holly Demaree-Saddler via *World Grain*, **VERBATIM:** "**CHS Sunprairie** opened its new Wiley terminal near Langford, North Dakota, U.S., according to media reports. The terminal will shuttle wheat and soybeans and will hold 900,000 bushels of grain and handle a 120-car train. The facility is CHS Sunprairie's tenth new terminal. As part of the ribbon cutting on June 25, grain was delivered by two grain producers who bid on the opportunity to benefit the local ambulance service." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2N7oeX2>

via **HEALTH TAKE:** Tuesdays and Thursday's we provide a deeper look at Minnesota's health care systems and businesses. If you know someone who follows health care, forward them this sign up. **SIGNUP:** <http://bit.ly/healthtake>

SMILE: From Susan Perry via *MinnPost*, **VERBATIM:** "In an article published recently in the long-form online journal Mosaic, reporter Neil Steinberg offers a fascinating cultural and scientific exploration of something most of us take for granted: the physical ability to smile. Steinberg centers his article around the compelling story of a 13-year-old boy who lost his ability to smile during infancy as a result of treatment for a rare life-threatening tumor that covered the left side of his face. In 2016, the boy underwent

facial reanimation surgery, and eventually, after much physical rehabilitation, began to fully smile for the first time in his young life — a truly transformative moment for both him and his family.” **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2tBV5uO> (**SPONSORED:** [UCare](#))

NOTE: Health Take will not publish next Tuesday unless there is news that warrants it. Enjoy your 4th and thanks for reading.

POLL: From Nathaniel Weixel via *The Hill*, **VERBATIM:** “The majority of people in a new poll say it’s important to them that ObamaCare’s protections for people with pre-existing conditions aren’t endangered. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation’s latest tracking poll, majorities of Republicans, Democrats and independents surveyed said it is ‘very important’ to them that ObamaCare’s provisions protecting those with pre-existing conditions remain law. More broadly, 65 percent of those polled said a candidate’s support for continued protections for people with pre-existing health conditions is either the ‘single most important factor’ or ‘very important’ in their vote. A candidate’s support for pre-existing condition protections was the top issue among Democratic and independent voters, while it was the second-highest issue among Republicans. The top issue among Republican voters is repealing ObamaCare.” **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2tANFlc>

MORE: Via *Kaiser Family Foundation*, the complete poll results. **INFOGRAPHICS:** <https://kaiserf.am/2tDp8lW>

ACA: Via *Kaiser Health News*, **VERBATIM:** “Former Sens. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) and former Reps. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and George Miller (D-Calif.) and retiring Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) led the five key committees that pushed the Affordable Care Act toward its passage in 2010. They joined Kaiser Health News’ Julie Rovner during a session at the annual Aspen Ideas Festival in Colorado to discuss the partisan battles over the ACA, how their efforts in Congress differed from an earlier effort by the Clinton administration to revamp health care, and the problems that arose because they couldn’t get a bill through Congress to make corrections to the ACA. They note the high price their party paid for implementing the law and the deep disagreement it sparked in the country about the role of government.” **WATCH:** <http://bit.ly/2tDk80o>

MIGRANTS: From Dan Diamond via *Politico*, **VERBATIM:** “The GAO and the Health and Human Services inspector general both launched reviews Wednesday into the Trump administration’s handling of thousands of migrant children separated from their families at the border. The Government Accountability Office told Rep. Frank Pallone of New Jersey that it will audit the systems and processes used to track families as they were separated, including how the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement monitored each minor in its care, according to a letter obtained by POLITICO.” **READ:** <https://politi.co/2N9eXNR>

TWEETS: From University of Bristol via *Science Daily*, **VERBATIM:** “Researchers in artificial intelligence (AI) and in medicine used AI methods to analyse aggregated and anonymised UK twitter content sampled every hour over the course of four years across 54 of the UK’s largest cities to determine if our thinking modes change collectively. The researchers revealed different emotional and cognitive modalities in our thoughts by identifying variations in language through tracking the use of specific words across the twitter sample which are associated with 73 psychometric indicators, and are used to help interpret information about our thinking style. At 6 am, analytical thinking was shown to peak, the words and language at this time were shown to correlate with a more logical way of thinking. However, in the evenings and nights this thinking style changed to a more emotional and existential one.” **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2tBhull>

OPIOIDS: From Charles Ornstein and Ryann Grochowski Jones via *National Public Radio* and *ProPublica*, **VERBATIM:** “Lawsuits and media reports have accused Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, of aggressively marketing the powerful narcotic even after it knew the drug was being misused. Prosecutors have charged the founder of Insys Therapeutics and several of the company’s sales representatives and executives for their roles in an alleged conspiracy to bribe doctors to use its fentanyl spray for unapproved uses. State and local governments have sued a host of drugmakers, alleging they deceptively marketed opioids and

seeking to recoup what it costs to treat people addicted to the drugs. But as public attention increases, the marketing tide may finally be retreating, a new ProPublica analysis shows. Pharmaceutical company payments to physicians related to opioid drugs decreased significantly in 2016 from the year before. In 2016, drugmakers spent \$15.8 million to pay doctors for speaking, consulting, meals and travel related to opioid drugs. That was down 33 percent from \$23.7 million in 2015 and is 21 percent less than the \$19.9 million spent in 2014." **READ:** <https://n.pr/2tDCM8v>

DISPARITIES: From Jeff Lagasse via *Healthcare Finance*, **VERBATIM:** "The number of Medicaid recipients receiving medication to treat opioid abuse increased sharply in the years after approval of a new drug, but the increase was smaller in poorer counties and areas with larger populations of black and Hispanic residents, according to a new RAND Corporation study. While it provides evidence that more people are receiving the medication treatment recommended for opioid use disorders, the findings suggest that work is needed to address racial and ethnic disparities that developed as treatment expanded, according to researchers." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2N7t9qF>

COUNSELORS: Via *UCare*, **VERBATIM:** "A grant from **UCare** will enable Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) to embed licensed drug and alcohol counselors in the Emergency Department to help assess UCare members for treatment with a highly effective addiction medication, and to connect these patients to community providers for ongoing medication treatment. These initiatives will benefit the community by providing cost-effective and research-based early medical response and long-term social support services to help opioid users conquer their addictions." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2EsowUd> (**SPONSORED:** [UCare](#))

HEALTHMARKET: Via *Research and Markets*, **VERBATIM:** "Minnesota HMOs and health insurers returned to strong profitability in 2017, recovering from a year of large losses in 2016. Minnesota seniors are being offered a variety of new Medicare plans from old and new competitors . . . Three of the largest Medicare plans in Minnesota - **Blue Cross Blue Shield**, **Group Health** and **Medica** - are Cost plans in which the health plan does not take risk for inpatient care. Those are going away, and those three companies introduced new full-risk Medicare Advantage plans for 2018. **UCare** already has a full-risk plan with 86,000 lives, and **UnitedHealthcare** is expected to market new senior plans here. About 60% of Medicare recipients here are in a health plan, among the highest rates in the country." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2lAbnZY>

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MOM: Your mother told you to share with others....Please forward morning take to all of your new colleagues, legislative staffers, family, friends, college roommates, if they want the first look at Minnesota politics every morning before 7AM. **SUBSCRIBE:** <http://bit.ly/amtake2017>

BDAYS: TODAY: Rochester radio's **Danielle Teal**, DFL activist **Angie Kline**, lobbyist **Dan Larson** **TMRW:** communicator **Dena Alspach**, reporter **James Nord**, Hennepin County Bar's **Susie Brown**, Ramsey County Commissioner **Victoria Reinhardt**, attorney **Scott Benson**, IRRRB Commissioner **Mark Phillips** **SUN:** attorney **Dan Rogan**, Best Buy's **John Vomhof Jr.**, retired lobbyist **Jeff Peterson**, Rep. **Marion Daniels** O'Neill, connector **Paul DeBettignies**, civic organizer **Ellen Watters** **NEXTWK:** MPR's **Bill Wareham**, fmr. Rep. **Joyce Peppin**, GOP organizer **Duane Quam**, gun advocate **Rob Doar**, business guy **Scott Honour**, AG candidate **Doug Wardlow**, Beer Institute's **Jim McGreevy**, DFL's **Joe Davis**, Rep. **Jon Koznick**, Cambria's **Summer Kath**, iheart's **Doug Westerman**, Minneapolis City Councilor **Steve Fletcher**, Sen. **Dan Sparks**, U of MN's **Sarah Youngerman**, Rep. Jeanne Poppe, **Wy Spano**, **Leslie Kupchella**, **Nate Mussell**

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